



VOLUME VI, NUMBER 1

WINTER 2006

Hearts and Hands: The Sequel

Introducing More of Fort Vancouver's New Volunteer Smiths

Jason Farmer

ASON CAME TO the Fort as J a volunteer last May, after an initial visit to the site. Blacksmithing may be low-tech, but Jason definitely isn't. He was trained as an astrophysicist and was recently named Chief Technical Officer of *nLight* a company he cofounded in 2000. nLight is one of the fastest growing technology companies in the U.S. —if you want to understand semiconductor lasers, just ask him. After undergraduate work at Santa Barbara College, he did a graduate degree at the University of Colorado, Boulder. He has been living in Vancouver for three years. Jason is such a great fan of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site that he and his wife, Bonnie, celebrated their marriage last September at the Marshall House.

Jason's appetite for challenge is reflected in his approach to blacksmithing. He has raised the bar a bit by trying to make a fire rake in between the established hook projects required for each apprentice.



Sachdev

Sanjay Sachdev

CANJAY STARTED at the Fort as a volunteer in the Archeology Department, where he worked with Danielle Gembala on the computer programs for archeology data entry. Sanjay, a softwear engineer by training and occupation, decided he would like to work more with his hands, so Danielle introduced him to Bill DeBerry. Shortly thereafter,

Sanjay was using hands, arms, back, and, yes, brain at the forge. Sanjay, who was born in India, tries to keep in touch and maintain contact by visiting there as time permits. He

received an undergraduate degree from Lafayette College, in Easton, Pennsylvania, and did his graduate work at Carnegie Mellon University, in Pittsburgh. During his free time, Sanjay enjoys reading. He lives in Hillsboro.

Both Jason Farmer and Sanjay Sachdev are in the shop on Saturday afternoons. /It was interesting to see such

high-tech guys enjoying our kind of low-tech hands on. The very next time this gizmo of a computer goes belly up I know where I'm headed.— Editor]

Fort Vancouver **Lantern Tours**

ANTERN TOURS are a new innovation at Fort Vancouver. Everyone is invited and reservations are required. Join in a wonderful opportunity to tour the Fort at night. Each adult attending the program will carry his or her own lantern and accompany the the Park Ranger on a tour through the Fur Store, Kitchen, Chief Factor's House and the Counting House. You will learn about what people did at Fort Vancouver after sunset. A donation of \$3 per person is requested. Reservations may be made at the Fort & Reserve Visitor Center or by calling 360-696-7655, ext. 10.♦

Tim Branch

IM BRANCH started volunteering at the Fort in September. Tim is 16 years old, home-schooled, and has been drawn to

> blacksmithing since he visited Fort Vancouver as a child and saw our shop. Tim lives in Yacolt, Washington. He has two older sisters and one younger brother. Tim's dad is teaching him to weld. In addition to being interested in all areas of metalwork Tim is also interested in



Tim Branch

leather work and wood carving. Currently, he is working on the "s hooks" apprentice project.♦

Hudson's Bay Company **Goes South**

UDSON'S BAY COMPANY, Canada's oldest corporation and its largest department store chain, accepted a January takeover bid of \$748 million cash from U.S. investor Jerry Tucker, a South Carolina businessman. The company was founded in 1670 as a fur trading venture. The chain of stores, now numbering about a hundred Bay department stores and two hundred fifty Zeller discount stores, was created when King Charles II of England gave a group of investors the exclusive right to trade around Hudson Bay, on the fringe of Canada's tundra. The Hudson's Bay Company established Fort Vancouver in 1825.

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Christmas at Fort Vancouver



Clockwise from left: Christmas crowd at the forge; Ken Rufe; Don Robinson (Photos: S. Gawecki)

HRISTMAS was celebrated at Fort Vancouver on December 10. It was a beautiful day and the unusually crowded parking lot was testimony to the popularity of this annual holiday event. The blacksmith shop was well represented (as usual), and two of our newest blacksmiths, Jason Farmer and Sanjay Sachdev, participated in the blacksmithing demonstrations.



THERE WERE ALSO standing room only crowds of visitors at the Carpenter Shop, where Don Robinson and Ken Rufe served as hosts.

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Period Clothing Coordinator Named

ILEEN TRESTAIN, a noted fabric historian and textile expert, has agreed to coordinate the period clothing program under the direction of Tessa Langford, Curator. The Period Clothing Department will be open Monday and Thursday from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM, as well as on special event days. If your period clothing belongs to the Fort then you may schedule repairs with Eileen. You can reach her at 360-891-0783. But don't be surprised, gentlemen, if a little blacksmithing is requested in return.

Hammer In!

AHAMMER IN is scheduled for Saturday, March 11, 9:00 - 4:00, at Ray Carpenter's shop, 28410 NE 19th Avenue, Ridgefield, WA. The demo is making a mouse swage on a hydraulic press and pattern cutting. BYO lunch or a covered dish to share. Fee: bring a piece for Iron in the Hat. Look for details and driving directions on the bulletin board above the blacksmith's file at the Fort Vancouver shop. For information call Ray at 360-887-8908, rdcarpenter@landolakes.com.

ABANA Happenings 2006 Conference

Seattle, Washington July 5–8, 2006

For information: 706-310-0323 www.abanaseattle2006.com

Iron in the Hat

At the 2006 Seattle Conference

Prizes include a Ron Kinyon Air Hammer Tickets for \$1.00 must be purchased by end of June For information: see Ike Bay

ABANA information www.abana.org



Mystery Artifact

ORT VANCOUVER curates archaeological collections from other fur trade sites as part of its research center function. One of these collections is Fort Colvile, an 1825-1871 Hudson's Bay Company post near Kettle Falls, Washington (now under Lake Roosevelt most of the time). After the HBC abandoned the post, the land was used as a ranch by the family of former Chief Trader Angus McDonald. Heidi Pierson and Becki Rickard have been cataloging materials from the site this year, and chose this issue's mystery object. Approximate dimensions: 7 inches tall; by about 1 inch wide and about 1 inch deep. Identification will be given in the next issue! Reprinted, with permission, from Northwest Cultural Resources Institute Report, Volume 1, Number 1, December 2005. The Northwest Cultural Resources Institute (NCRI) is a cooperative partnership, based at the Vancouver National Historic Reserve, dedicated to facilitating research and educational activities relating to the cultural resources of the area. Watch your email for the NCRI newsletter.

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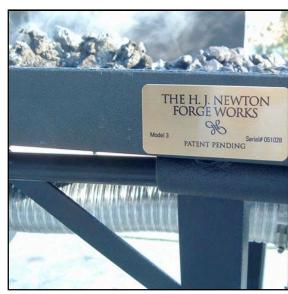
Extreme Build Your Own: The Newton Forge (patent pending)

Susan Gawecki

T ALL STARTED with an anvil, of course ... a birthday gift (everyone out there must remember that first anvil). Like all anvils, it was attached by invisible strings leading to more tools: anvils are no good without forges, forges no good without tongs, tongs no good without hammers, and so it goes. With that first anvil, the student blacksmith becomes what all experienced blacksmiths already are — a magnet for tools and iron.

The third model in the Newton forge series came about because of that unblemished birthday anvil. Harry Newton was the chief construction engineer, and I was the chief gopher. Together, we fabricated the forge at Harry's home shop in the hills outside Battleground. The forge, 23" x 34" by 33" high, was con-

structed almost completely from salvaged materials. It has important refinements over earlier versions: two casters that enable it to be moved inside for storage, and a Weber BBQ grill cover that makes it blend seamlessly into the landscape and lifestyle of suburban nonsmith neighbors.



Forge nameplate (S. Gawecki)

The fire pot was purchased from Centaur Forge, the rheostat was stolen

(fair and square, but not from the government), and the fan is a hand-me-down from another smith. The forge is welded together. Side shields are removable for working longer stock, and there is also an extension rack for balancing longer stock in the coals. The rack slides easily under the forge for storage. "Handles" for moving the forge are made of stock iron pipe and also removable. The V-style leg support insures that it rests solidly on an uneven surface. After the forge was assembled and professionally welded it was sandblasted and coated with a powder epoxy



Harry welding the forge (S. Gawecki)

primer and a TGIC polyester powder top coat.

The forge was fun to build, and using it is a great pleasure. ◆

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Flat Stock

 $22^{1}/_{2} \times 34 \times ^{1}/_{4}$, for bed

 $30^{1}/2$ x 5, for back side shield

22 x 5, for side side shield

16 x 1 x 1/8, (two) supports for extension pipe

12 x 1 x ¹/₈, (six) for angle leg reinforcement (not illustrated in drawing)

7 x 1³/₄ x ¹/₈, (two) for wheel supports

Angle Stock

 $34^{1/2} \times 2 \times {}^{1/8}$, (two)

23 x 2 x ¹/₈, (two) 8 x 2 x ¹/₈, (two) for fan and rheostat hanger

 $30 \times 2 \times {}^{1}$ /8, (two) for straight leg

 $34 \times 2 \times {}^{1}_{8}$, (two) for "V" leg

5 x 2 x ¹/₈, (one) for base for "V" leg

Iron Pipe

16 x 1 ₂ ID, (two) for extension pipe sleeve

36 x 1 ₂ ID, (two) for "handles"

 $4 \times {}^{1}\!\!/_{2}$ OD, (two) for handle sleeves

Round Stock

30 x 1 ₂, (two) for extension support

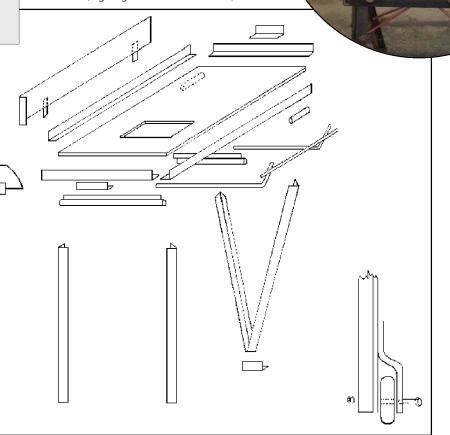
4-inch casters from Arbor Freight, (two)

Drawing and photos: S. Gawecki



Forge under construction, upside down





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News from the Forge

ELLO FROM THE FORT! What a great turnout for the Wayne Goddard demonstration. Thanks to everyone who helped in setting up and tearing down. On that note, I would like to ask folks to stick around after these kinds of events to help put things back in order. Jeff Cawley and Balta Puig helped me put things right this time and much thanks to them. If we can get four or five to hang around it would go much quicker. Okay, enough lecturing . . .

In the near future we will have new volunteer agreements set out for folks to sign. Kimm wants to have every volunteer sign a new agreement every year. This will help us keep track of which volunteers are active and which are not. The annual volunteer appreciation dinner has not been scheduled yet and we should have more information shortly. It will be in early spring and may not be an evening dinner. Kimm is working on details and we'll let folks know as soon as possible.

Remember to work safely in the shops and hope to see you all soon — Bill Bill DeBerry, Historic Programs Coordinator

Notes from the President

EAR GUILD MEMBERS — Two very successful workshops have been held (Peter Ross and Wayne Goddard), and we would like to know your interest in holding more. What subjects do you want to be covered? In both cases the video equipment was set up, the chairs moved to and from the shop, registration table staffed, and ample food purchased, so no one was in danger of fainting from hunger.

To all of you who helped, we are most grateful. To all that attended and learned, you were the reason for the workshops. In both workshops, we brought people into our shop that might not have otherwise known about the Fort's crafts program. The carpenter shop is not enjoying the same level of support as

the blacksmith shop, so please help spread the word to any woodworkers you know who might benefit from an enjoyable volunteer experience. This also opens the question of workshops in woodworking. Is there any interest?

The winter doldrums will not last much longer and we expect to see strings of school groups descending upon us once again. Soon there will be extra volunteer opportunities for the Friday sessions of hands-on. Anyone interested should contact Bill DeBerry. Every organization depends on good feedback from its members: your board cannot act on issues that you do not bring to our attention. Please let us know the good and bad you are experiencing at the Fort. — Ike

Ike Bay, Guild President

Check These Out!

THE FOLLOWING ARE NEW additions to the Park library. They should be on the shelves shortly. If you haven't been there lately, visit the library: you're sure to find something to pique your curiosity and inspire your work.

ARDREY, ROBERT L., American Agricultural Implements: A Review of Invention and Development in the Agricultural Implement Industry in the United States

BARLOW, RONALD S.,The Antique Tool Collector's Guide to Value

BERKEBILE, DON H., Carriage Terminology: A Historical Dictionary

BLANDFORD, PERCY W, Old Farm Tools and Machinery, An Illustrated History

COPE, KENNETH L., American Cooperage Machinery and Tools
______, American Lathe Builders: 1810 - 1910
______, American Wrench Makers 1830 - 1915

CUTIS, W., Antique Woodstoves: Artistry in Iron

FEILD, RACHAEL, Irons in the Fire: A History of Cooking Equipment

KINNEY, THOMAS A., The Carriage Trade : Making Horse-Drawn Vehicles in America

KNIGHT, Edward H., The Practical Dictionary of Mechanics: Being a Description of tools, instruments, machines, processes, and engineering; history of inventions; general technological vocabulary; and digest of mechanical appliances in science and the art

LOUDON, John Claudius, Encyclopaedia of Cottage, Farm and Villa Architecture

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CALENDAR

School of the Reenactor: Civil War Era

April 1 - 2

Discovery Walk

April 28 - 30

Children's Cultural Parade

April 28 9:00 - 11:00 AM

Nez Perce Reconciliation Ceremony

Date and time to be announced

SAVE THE DATE

Peter Ross Workshop

Guild-Sponsored Event August 11-13, 2006, Meridian Forge, Eatonville, WA Decorative Iron in the18th Century English Style

Details and registraton information: Ike Bay 503-645-2790, dasbayhaus@worldnet.att.net

(continued from page 7)

MALM, Gunilla, Toward and Archaeology of Buildings Contexts and Concepts. Ten papers on the analysis of standing buildings and concepts of building reconstruction

MORLEY, John, Regency Design 1790-1840: Gardens, Buildings, Interiors, Furniture

NICHOLSON, Nicholson's Mechanic's Companion

PETERS, Helen B., Painting During the Colonial Period in British Columbia

ROSE, Walter, The Village Carpenter

SELLENS, Alvin, Dictionary of American hand tools: A pictorial synopsis

SPIVEY, Towana, A Historical Guide to Wagon Hardware and Blacksmith Supplies

___,The Coachmaker's Illustrated Handbook

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